

West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC)
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2014

Attendees: Amal Ali, Mary Andrews, Shoshana Armington, Jeff Bersin, Christina Budzinsa, Tessa Caivello, Megan Casagrande, Jennifer Chen, Liz Crosby, Michael Duong, Sara Flynn, Mark Grudzien, Keats Jarmon, Grace Johnson, Dan Jordan, Joe Kalache, Cheryl Kassow, Renee Kleinman, Jianghony Li, Isaac Moise, Zulynette Morales, Jason Otte, Liza Peters, Evelyn Piizio, Carson Reak, Scott Riley, Jean Schensul, Steve Schensul, Jeff Sousa, Marisa Tamayo, Pat Tyler, Mark Zydanowicz

Welcome from Chairperson / Introductions / Approve Minutes / Early Departures / Announcements

Jeff Bersin chaired the meeting and attendees introduced themselves. Minutes from the December 2013 meeting were approved.

Announcements: There is a parenting program entitled *Living with 10 to 15 Year-olds* being held at the Bridge on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. *The Anonymous People* movie will be playing on Saturday, January 18th at 10 a.m.

Lead By Example Campaign – Feedback on Six-Month Plan - Dan Jordan

A PowerPoint presentation was offered to share the plans and timeline for the campaign. The ICR is working on a six-month plan for the campaign. Because the ICR and SAPC are not doing a Town Hall Meeting this year, the ICR is looking to see how to partner more with the schools to enhance the campaign. In the PowerPoint presentation, the key trends from the 2013 Drug and Alcohol surveys administered in the high schools was shared.

The goal of the ICR for the campaign is to build a sustainable infrastructure at the school level to support the campaign. They will start first with the two high schools and expand to STRIVE and eventually the middle schools. Right now they are looking for a broader base of students as well as to create a mentoring partnership to develop young leaders in the middle school. The ICR is continuing to train high school students to facilitate discussions about the videos created as well as new merchandise for the campaign. The ICR is seeking community partners to help the students plan events.

SAPC members who work in middle schools provided feedback about the message they feel the campaign should promote at the middle school level. They believed it should be more broadly focused and recommended that ICR look to re-frame the structure so that there are more ways to integrate the campaign into existing programs and structures at the middle schools.

Middle School Community of Concern Update - Jeff Sousa

A second well attended COC meeting was held on January 8th. The COC hopes to schedule the author of “Not So Fast” to come in for a speaker event. They are in the initial planning stages for the event and would like to schedule it in conjunction with Tune-in to Life week.

Substance Abuse in the Asian American Community - JiangHong Li, ICR

A PowerPoint presentation was shared to examine substance abuse trends and common misconceptions about use in the Asian American community. Substance use and abuse is greatly understudied in the Asian American population. There is a perception that substance abuse is not an issue in this community and therefore does not require lots of resources to study it. The ICR held a student summer internship program and continues to look for opportunities to develop new studies. Please direct questions or resources to JiangHong Li, ICR.

Discussion Regarding Creation of Strategic Plan for SAPC - Jeff Bersin and Steve Schensul

The SAPC would like to bring Steve Schensul in to help develop a strategic plan to guide the efforts of the SAPC. Members were agreeable. It was agreed that the February meeting would be cancelled and that this process will take place during an extended SAPC meeting on March 13th from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Please send any topic ideas for this process to Jeff Bersin and Pat Tyler.

New Business

No new business.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shoshana Armington
February 13, 2014

